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Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem

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...tems 4 and 8 of the provisional agenda**
Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

Activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report contains an outline of the activities conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime during 2017. It also contains a set of recommendations for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of the key activities conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2017. Section II of the report contains an update on policy developments, new technical cooperation activities and efforts by UNODC to mainstream gender into its activities. Section III focuses on progress made by the Office in the implementation of mandates relating to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem, taking into account the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016. It also contains information on the implementation by the Office of mandates relating to countering transnational organized crime and corruption; preventing terrorism; crime prevention and criminal justice; and research, trend analysis, and scientific and forensic support. Section IV contains an overview of measures taken to strengthen UNODC in the areas of strategic planning, evaluation and fundraising efforts. A set of recommendations are contained in section V for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

II. Strategic orientation

2. The follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016 continued during the year under review. UNODC supported the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in the follow-up action to the special session, using a comprehensive approach, covering all seven thematic areas contained in the outcome document of the special session, and taking an inclusive approach involving all interested stakeholders. Thematic discussions were held in January and from September to November 2017, and the website on the follow-up to the special session (www.ungass2016.org) is being developed to function as an online repository for concrete information on how the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document are being translated into action. Two workshops on the implementation of those recommendations were held by UNODC, in La Paz on 29 and 30 May, and in Port of Spain on 24 and 25 October. Furthermore, in 2017, the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and the Subcommission considered cross-cutting issues, in accordance with the outcome document (see E/CN.7/2018/9).

3. With the financial support of Qatar, UNODC launched a global programme aimed at assisting countries in implementing several aspects of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted in 2015 by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The global programme focuses on strengthening judicial integrity, fostering prisoner rehabilitation and social integration, preventing youth crime through sports and encouraging a culture of the rule of law in schools and universities through the initiative entitled "Education for justice".

4. In its resolution 72/192, the General Assembly approved the overall theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided that the Fourteenth Congress shall adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission for its consideration. At its twenty-seventh session, to be held in May 2018, the Commission will review the draft discussion guide, which is a key resource document for the Fourteenth Congress and for the regional preparatory meetings to be held in the first half of 2019.

5. UNODC strengthened its efforts to align its strategic and programme documents with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by including links to targets of the 2030 Agenda in its new and revised programmes. UNODC is the custodian for

global-level reporting on 15 indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals, in some instances jointly with other entities. The Office also assists States in building their capacity to track progress on indicators, and to report on security, justice and the rule of law, as reflected under Goal 16. Within their mandates, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice have contributed to the global follow-up to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, and support the thematic review of progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

6. UNODC assisted States in improving sustainable development outcomes through the implementation of whole-of-government approaches for combating economic crime and the financing of terrorism, while improving inclusion and transparency.

7. UNODC strengthened efforts to establish a culture of results-based reporting and management that helps clarify linkages between its work and the 2030 Agenda. The Office continued to follow discussions on the implementation of the 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, providing inputs on country-level reform to the United Nations Development Group, on the reform of the Resident Coordinator System and the creation of administrative systems capable of supporting normative and operational assistance.

8. In November 2017, the Government of Colombia and UNODC signed a historic agreement to promote and support peace consolidation in Colombia through alternative development and the implementation and monitoring of its public policy and territorial development strategy for illicit crop reduction. Through the four-year project, UNODC will provide the Government with technical assistance valued at $316 million for the implementation of the national policy and strategy on territorial and rural development, integrated monitoring of illicit crops and support for the voluntary substitution of such crops, which includes support for legal income generation through productive projects and access to land.

9. A new integrated regional programme for South Asia (2018–2021) is being finalized in close partnership with key counterparts in the region. The new regional programme, to be launched in the first quarter of 2018, is fully aligned with the outcome document of the thirtieth special session (General Assembly resolution S-30/1) and the Sustainable Development Goals.

10. The implementation of a new country programme for Indonesia (2017–2020), developed in cooperation with the Government, 19 ministries and relevant civil society organizations, began in early 2017. The programme was designed to be in alignment with the 2030 Agenda.

11. The Security Council, in its resolution 2344 (2017), once again recognized the Paris Pact initiative as being one of the most important frameworks in the fight against opiates originating in Afghanistan and part of a comprehensive approach to peace, stability and development in Afghanistan, the region and beyond. UNODC continued to support the partnership's efforts for enhanced cooperation under the four thematic pillars outlined in the Vienna Declaration: (a) strengthening and implementing regional initiatives; (b) detecting and blocking financial flows linked to illicit traffic in opiates; (c) preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals used in illicit opiates manufacturing in Afghanistan; and (d) reducing drug abuse and dependence through a comprehensive approach.

12. In May 2017, UNODC established a global programme on gender equality and the empowerment of women in UNODC and the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV). The main objective is to put in place an institutional framework to help UNODC to promote and achieve gender equality in a coordinated and comprehensive way, addressing gender parity among staff, as well as gender mainstreaming in all organizational practices, policies and programmes. Within the framework of the global programme, the Office developed the Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan (2018–2021), which will enable the Office to comply with the United Nations

System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women. The Gender Equality Strategy was endorsed by the Executive Committee of UNOV and UNODC and approved by the Director-General/Executive Director of UNOV/UNODC on 20 December 2017.

III. Progress made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in implementing its mandates

A. Effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem

1. Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues

(a) Prevention, treatment and reintegration

13. UNODC, together with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other relevant international and non-governmental organizations, continued to support States in implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, as well as target 3.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on strengthening prevention and treatment, while contributing to the achievement of Goal 5, on gender equality; target 16.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on reducing all forms of violence; and target 16.2, on ending all forms of violence against children.

14. In over 20 countries, UNODC continued its efforts to reduce the vulnerability of children and young people to the use of psychoactive substances and other risky behaviours. The Office initiated the update of the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* and, together with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and WHO, published a guide on education sector responses to substance abuse issues. The Youth Initiative continued its efforts to mobilize young people, which included holding a Youth Forum meeting during the sixtieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and organizing campaigns on social media and other activities. The activities of the Initiative are financially supported by the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre of Japan.

15. UNODC and WHO initiated the testing of their *International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders* and continued to build the capacity of providers, including on the treatment of pregnant women with drug use disorders. In over 20 countries, UNODC and WHO also continued to develop innovative services, including overdose prevention in four countries and services for children in five countries. In addition, UNODC supported the participation of the informal scientific network in the sixtieth session of the Commission and the holding of technical consultations to develop a range of tools, including in the context of the Paris Pact initiative.

(b) HIV prevention, treatment and care

16. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 60/8 and the recommendations on HIV/AIDS contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, and in alignment with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 2016-2021 Strategy: On the Fast-Track to end AIDS, aimed at ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030, UNODC promoted human rights-based, public health-focused and gender-responsive HIV prevention, treatment and care for people who use drugs and people in prisons.

17. Together with the International Committee of the Red Cross, UNODC supported States by organizing three workshops in the Middle East and North Africa on health in detention. UNODC continued implementing its programme on HIV/AIDS in prison settings in 10 countries in Southern Africa. To date, the programme has built the capacity of over 30,000 policymakers and over 33,000 prisoners, prison staff and health professionals.

18. Jointly with members of civil society, UNODC trained over 230 service providers in improving access to HIV services for people who inject drugs, in Belarus, Egypt, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam, and in addressing the specific needs of women who inject drugs, in Egypt, Indonesia, Nepal and Viet Nam.

19. UNODC strengthened partnerships between the law enforcement and health sectors and produced an e-learning tool for law enforcement officials. The Office also trained over 250 law enforcement officers, 100 members of civil society and community-based organizations, and 120 parliamentarians and representatives of the health, education and social sectors in Afghanistan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, the Republic of Moldova, South Africa, Tajikistan and the United Republic of Tanzania.

20. UNODC produced a training module on gender mainstreaming and the monitoring and evaluation of HIV services for women who use drugs, and provided technical assistance in monitoring and evaluation of HIV services in prisons, in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Viet Nam.

2. Availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion

21. UNODC continued to promote a comprehensive and coordinated response to improving access to controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing diversion, misuse and abuse, and provides support to States in achieving targets 3.b and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on access to medicines and services. The four areas of the joint global programme of UNODC, WHO and the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) are: (a) increasing global awareness; (b) providing technical support; (c) facilitating normative policy and guidelines at the national level; and (d) promoting a more accurate data collection. In 2017, UNODC provided support to Ghana and Timor-Leste, and its work in Nigeria resulted in the development of a national policy and guidelines for the health sector on the management of pain. With the support of UNODC, a pilot project focusing on access to controlled substances, including morphine for palliative care, was started in Mexico. In Antigua and Barbuda and Panama, support focused on institutionalizing data collection and research.

22. The complexity of the issues necessitates the inclusion of many global and national stakeholders, including the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Narcotics Control Board, the United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care, Human Rights Watch and the Pain and Policy Studies Group at the University of Wisconsin (United States of America). Partners provided contributions for a special event held during the sixtieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, ongoing meetings leading up to the sixty-first session of the Commission, and an expert group meeting held in September 2017. During the meeting, experts identified concrete suggestions for the implementation of a range of commitments recently made by Member States, including in Commission resolutions 53/4 and 54/6, the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly and World Health Assembly resolution 67.19.

3. Supply reduction and related measures: effective law enforcement; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

23. UNODC promoted criminal intelligence-led policing, the use of special investigative techniques and cross-border cooperation, targeting all forms of organized crime, including drug trafficking, and the resulting illicit financial flows.

24. The "networking the networks" approach continued to facilitate cooperation among existing international and regional law enforcement centres and organizations. In addition, networking among law enforcement training institutions under the Law

Enforcement TrainNet initiative provided a basis for the exchange of training curriculums, materials, tools, methodologies, best practices and trainers.

25. The partnership of UNODC with the World Customs Organization in the Container Control Programme supported States in improving trade supply security and strengthening border controls and yielded significant results for the 43 participating States. The national inter-agency targeting units, established through the Programme, intercepted over 200 tons of cocaine, 5 tons of heroin, 76 tons of cannabis and 1,535 tons of precursor chemicals. The Programme has expanded to a further 11 ports and is in the process of concluding a memorandum of understanding with the International Civil Aviation Organization. Operational activities focusing on the air cargo trade supply chain commenced in seven countries.

26. Through its Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime, UNODC strengthened judicial cooperation by convening a joint meeting for the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime and the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa, held in Senegal; the first meeting of the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network, held in Sudan; and a training session for the Network of Prosecutors and Central Authorities from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus.

27. Through CRIMJUST, its criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation initiative targeting trafficking and related offences, UNODC continued to build capacity among criminal justice agencies along the cocaine trafficking route from Latin America and the Caribbean to West Africa.

4. Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities

28. From 11 to 13 October 2017, UNODC organized an expert consultation on alternatives to conviction or punishment in the treatment and care of people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system. The event was aimed at reviewing the draft handbook developed on the topic by UNODC and WHO, pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 58/5.

29. UNODC continued to support the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in discussions on the follow-up to the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly; alternatives to imprisonment; and approaches to preventing drug use in children and young people, as well as treatment options and ways of addressing their involvement in drug-related crime.

30. In Panama, a UNODC study showed that men constituted 85 per cent of persons deprived of their liberty for drug-related offences (including drug consumption, possession and international drug trafficking). However, the study also revealed that women imprisoned for such offences constituted 70 per cent of the female prison population, and that their involvement in such offences was mostly the result of poverty, addiction or coercion.

31. To promote compliance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), UNODC developed a checklist for internal inspection mechanisms, which dedicates attention to ensuring continuity of treatment and care upon release for drug dependence and other disorders.

32. As part of the UNODC global programme on violence against children, UNODC is providing for prevention and treatment of substance abuse for children in conflict with the law.[1]

[1] Additional achievements of UNODC with regard to drug prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation services for girls and women, as well as in assuring the quality of treatment services, are highlighted in section III.A.1, above.

5. Cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threads, including new psychoactive substances

33. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 60/4 on preventing and responding to the adverse health consequences and risks associated with the use of new psychoactive substances, UNODC continued to collaborate with international, regional organizations and academia in sharing experiences and best practices in preventing and addressing the adverse health consequences and risks associated with new psychoactive substances. The activities implemented in 2017 include the first regional meeting on new psychoactive substances in the Western Hemisphere, held in Bogota on 1 and 2 February; the international conference on precursor chemicals and new psychoactive substances jointly convened by the International Narcotics Control Board and UNODC, held in Bangkok from 21 to 24 February; the Fifth International Conference on novel psychoactive substances in Vienna and the UNODC-WHO Annual Expert Consultation on new psychoactive substances in Vienna. The UNODC early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances was expanded to incorporate toxicological data, a first step to achieving the recommendation contained in the outcome document on prioritizing the most harmful, persistent and prevalent new psychoactive substances for international action.

34. The triennial global synthetic drugs assessment, launched in October 2017, provided regional and global overviews and context-specific dynamics relating to the demand and supply of amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances. The Global SMART Update series continued to increase knowledge on emerging threats such as the opioid crisis and the related abuse of new psychoactive substances, including benzodiazepines.

35. To improve national capacity in the identification of new psychoactive substances and identification of drugs, UNODC conducted regional and in-house training for countries in Central and East Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean.

36. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 60/1, UNODC started to reflect on ways of improving drug statistics, including on the annual report questionnaire, and to discuss activities to support countries in producing such data. In preparation for the expert consultation in early 2018, UNODC conducted a technical assessment of drug-related data collections and sought input from Member States through a questionnaire.

6. Strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility

37. UNODC promotes cooperation and the exchange of best practices and lessons learned to fight drug trafficking through regional initiatives such as the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime, the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) and the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa. UNODC contributes to the achievement of the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly and the Sustainable Development Goals by supporting the development of national legislation and drug control master plans; by providing technical support to the West African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use; and through the implementation of evidence-based drug prevention, treatment and care activities.

38. UNODC prioritized work on illicit financial flows and alternative development in order to respond to the dramatic increase in opium cultivation and production in Afghanistan. UNODC continued to support the establishment of a regional network of anti-money-laundering and asset recovery experts. UNODC contributed to the three pillars — countering terrorism, countering serious crime and improving border security — within the framework of the Integrative Internal Security Governance, implemented in the Western Balkans and supported by the European Union.

39. UNODC continued to facilitate operational coordination and the exchange of experiences among States. Through the project PREDEM, focusing on drug demand reduction in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, UNODC supported the strengthening of national commissions on drugs, the formulation of demand reduction measures based on scientific evidence and the exchange of good practices through subregional activities, such as the Andean forum on prevention and treatment. UNODC also supported information exchange on drugs and precursors and the work of specialized coordination bodies, including the Central American Network of Prosecutors against Organized Crime and the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America against Money-Laundering.

40. UNODC works closely with a number of regional and interregional entities, including the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Under the wider framework of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations, UNODC provides support in countering trafficking in wildlife and timber, the smuggling of migrants, drug use prevention efforts and legal reform. Through the regional programme for South-East Asia for 2014–2019, UNODC ensures, inter alia, effective support for the Mekong Memorandum of Understanding mechanism, which brings together six countries in East and South-East Asia to contain the threat of illicit drug production, trafficking and use.

7. Alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues

41. UNODC works closely with States to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, in line with the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem. Following the first expert group meeting on alternative development in Bangkok in 2016, Member State representatives, practitioners and civil society came together for a second meeting, held in Berlin from 11 to 13 September 2017. The objective was to discuss how best to work collectively to implement the outcome document, mainstream environmental issues into alternative development, review the applicability of transferring lessons learned from alternative development to urban contexts and ensure implementation of efforts aimed at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Technical assistance provided by UNODC to Afghanistan, Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Peru continued to focus on improving the socioeconomic situation of rural farming communities and sustainably reducing illicit crop cultivation. The UNODC programme in Shan State, Myanmar, completed its first coffee harvest of high-quality beans and is in the process of securing a fixed long-term market in Europe based on fair trade practice and pricing. In Colombia, the UNODC programme was recognized as a vital component in the implementation for a sustainable peace process.

B. Effectively addressing crime

1. Countering transnational organized crime

(a) United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto

42. UNODC continued to assist States in ratifying and implementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto. In its resolution 8/2, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime decided to continue the process of establishing the mechanism for the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto. Sessions of the open-ended intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of defining the specific procedures and rules for the functioning of the

review mechanism were held in Vienna from 24 to 26 April and from 30 October to 1 November 2017.

43. In 2017, the Working Group on Firearms, the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons and the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants held meetings. Each Working Group discussed the preparation of the questionnaire for the review of the implementation of the respective protocol to the Convention. Furthermore, the Working Group on International Cooperation and the Working Group on Technical Assistance held back-to-back meetings with a joint agenda item on the preparation of the questionnaire for the review of the implementation of the Convention. The finalization of the redeveloped Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool was announced during those meetings.

44. In 2017, two additional States became parties to the Convention, bringing the number of parties to 189. Two additional States became parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the Convention, bringing the number of parties to 172. In addition, four additional States became parties to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol by Land, Sea and Air, bringing the number of parties to 146; and one additional State became party to the Firearms Protocol (115 parties).

(b) Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants

45. Innovative technical assistance by UNODC included: (a) a regional expert meeting addressing financial profits from migrant smuggling, held in Montenegro in April 2017; (b) a regional training workshop to promote judicial cooperation against migrant smuggling by sea affecting the Mediterranean Sea, held in Malta from 9 to 11 May 2017; and (c) a multidisciplinary workshop to combat and prevent trafficking in persons for organ removal held in August 2017. In addition, UNODC continued working in preventing migrant smuggling through the #DeadlyBusiness campaign, which was adopted by Governments in Central and North America, and Spain. A new version of the Blue Heart campaign was launched in Mexico.

46. UNODC supported the Security Council in its emerging work on responses to trafficking related to conflict, including by producing a thematic paper on countering trafficking in persons in conflict situations. The Office also published an issue paper on the concept of financial or other material benefit in the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol and launched the Smuggling of Migrants Knowledge Portal.

47. UNODC continued to play a leading role within the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and the Global Migration Group. The Office actively supported the fifth thematic session of the Group, held in Vienna in September 2017 as part of the General Assembly process on the development of a United Nations global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration. During the same month, the Assembly successfully completed its second appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

(c) Trafficking in firearms

48. Through its Global Firearms Programme, UNODC provided assistance to countries in the Balkans, Latin America and the Maghreb and Sahel regions on preventing and combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms. Initiatives included harmonizing national firearms legislation, supporting technical firearms management (e.g., marking, record-keeping, collection and disposal) and building capacity in investigating and prosecuting firearms trafficking, operations in collaboration with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the European Police Office (Europol) and promoting information exchange among practitioners. UNODC also launched a new data collection effort on seized firearms that improved monitoring and directly supported the achievement of target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on significantly reducing illicit financial and arms flows by 2030.

(d) Money-laundering

49. In the framework of its Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, UNODC assisted countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East through the provision of in-country technical assistance. Mentoring programme assistance was provided to authorities and individuals in the private sector, and training sessions were delivered on the confiscation of the proceeds of wildlife crime, financial investigations, cryptocurrencies, the fight against cash smuggling, terrorist financing and methodologies to disrupt illicit financial flows. UNODC promoted national, regional and international coordination to combat illicit financial flows and contributed to the implementation of target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

(e) Other related organized crime issues

50. The third meeting of the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime was held in Vienna from 10 to 13 April 2017.

51. UNODC provided capacity-building assistance to counter cybercrime in countries in Central America, the Middle East, North Africa and Central and South-East Asia. Operational results, as a direct impact of UNODC training, included the conviction of a predatory paedophile who had sexually abused over 80 young children in several countries.

52. UNODC continued to support Member States in developing and implementing crime prevention and criminal justice responses to trafficking in cultural property. UNODC participated in coordination network meetings on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2199 (2015) and 2347 (2017), and in a high-level meeting on protecting cultural heritage from terrorism and mass atrocities, held on the margins of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly. In line with paragraph 22 of Security Council resolution 2347 (2017), UNODC supported the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies, in the preparation of a report to the Security Council on the implementation of the resolution.

53. UNODC continued its policy work on wildlife, forest and fisheries crime and provided technical assistance to over 30 requesting States. Rapid reference guides were developed for Botswana, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, with a view to building law enforcement, prosecutorial and judicial capacity. Law enforcement and criminal justice professionals were trained in basic and specialized investigation techniques, such as intelligence-gathering, countering corruption, crime scene management and prosecution. Activities were launched in Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania based on the recommendations contained in the *Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit* of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime. UNODC hosted the third International Symposium on Fisheries Crime, which was held in Vienna on 25 and 26 September 2017 and attended by participants from 57 countries.

2. Countering corruption

54. At its seventh session, held in Vienna from 6 to 10 November 2017, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption adopted eight resolutions, addressing asset recovery, corruption involving vast quantities of assets, technical assistance, synergies between multilateral organizations responsible for anti-corruption review mechanisms, the prevention of corruption, the implementation of the Convention in small island developing States and corruption in sport. The Conference also adoption one decision, on the work of its subsidiary bodies. The Conference was attended by approximately 1,800 participants from 158 States parties and a number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

55. The Implementation Review Group held its regular eighth session from 19 to 23 June 2017 and its resumed eighth session on 7 and 8 November 2017. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held its eighth meeting in Vienna from 21 to 23 August 2017, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery held its eleventh meeting in Vienna on 24 and 25 August 2017, and the sixth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention against Corruption was held in Vienna on 6 and 7 November 2017.

56. Progress was made under the first and second cycles of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, with 181 States involved in the review process. Of the more than 160 States that have been reviewed under the first cycle, many have shared information on how the Implementation Review Mechanism catalysed domestic reforms and enhanced inter-institutional cooperation. A total of 87 per cent of the States reviewed indicated that they had adopted new laws to strengthen their anti-corruption legislative frameworks.

57. UNODC continued to provide tailored technical assistance to strengthen the implementation of the Convention, including the preparation for country reviews and the implementation of observations made during those reviews.

58. From January 2016 to June 2017, UNODC implemented over 480 activities at the national, regional and global levels, including direct country-level support to over 83 countries. Approximately 6,000 anti-corruption practitioners benefited from such assistance. Through the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, implemented jointly by UNODC and the World Bank, a total of 24 countries received direct technical assistance in 2016 to implement chapter V of the Convention, and various regional asset recovery networks were supported.

59. The StAR Initiative also organized the first Global Forum on Asset Recovery, held in Washington, D.C., from 4 to 6 December 2017, as a follow-up to the Anti-Corruption Summit organized by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, held in London in 2016.

60. In 2017, UNODC published the *Handbook on Anti-Corruption Measures in Prison* and a joint study with the International Olympic Committee entitled *Model Criminal Law Provisions for the Prosecution of Competition Manipulation*. UNODC is producing numerous educational materials and tools under the Education for Justice initiative and the Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative and is supporting the development of the Global Judicial Integrity Network, which is to be launched in April 2018.

61. UNODC continued to raise awareness about the importance of implementing the Convention in a variety of regional and international forums, including as an observer during the meetings of the Group of Twenty (G-20) Anti-Corruption Working Group, which were hosted by UNODC for the first time, in Vienna on 12 and 13 September 2017.

3. Preventing terrorism

62. Through its Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism, UNODC delivered over 90 activities and trained 2,200 criminal justice officials in 2017.

63. The Office continued to promote the international legal instruments related to terrorism, in particular those related to the suppression of nuclear terrorism and unlawful acts against civil aviation, which have a low number of ratifications.

64. UNODC efficiently assisted Member States in updating their national counter-terrorism legislation, including Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen.

65. In early 2017, the Office continued promoting the role of parliamentarians in terrorism prevention, including through a major initiative, together with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, on the role of parliaments in preventing and countering terrorism.

66. In 2017, donor support enabled UNODC to expand the geographical and thematic coverage of its Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism. Assistance covered countries in the Middle East and North Africa; South and South-East Asia; the Pacific; Central Asia; West and Central Africa, including the Sahel; Nigeria; the Horn of Africa; Central America; and South-Eastern Europe. UNODC continued to provide crucial support to Iraq, in particular for restoring the rule of law in the liberated territories. In Asia, the Office launched programmes, including for improving border management, in partnership with INTERPOL. The delivery of an in-depth programme for Nigeria progressed well and included the development of a prosecution and reintegration strategy for persons associated with Boko Haram. In Central Asia, UNODC furthered the creation of a regional network to prevent terrorism and violent extremism. In the Sahel region, a multi-agency effort was undertaken to build the capacity of supreme courts against terrorism.

67. Based on the State requests, the top priority areas for capacity-building were as follows: criminal justice aspects of addressing the threat posed by returning, reallocating and travelling foreign terrorist fighters; improvised explosive devices; attacks on critical infrastructure; and the use of the Internet and social media for terrorist recruitment and incitement. The Office significantly expanded assistance in the following areas: the use of special investigation techniques, the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons, children recruited and exploited by terrorist groups, and gender dimensions of criminal justice responses to terrorism. UNODC successfully supported several States in establishing specialized counter-terrorism units, including Chad, Mali, the Niger and Nigeria.

68. Following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2322 (2016), the Office redoubled its efforts to promote international cooperation in terrorism-related matters. Within the framework of its Foreign Terrorist Fighters Initiative, UNODC launched a major effort in the Middle East and North Africa to establish multi-agency task forces for judicial cooperation in cases involving foreign terrorist fighters.

69. The Office developed a series of new tools, including a module on the universal legal framework against terrorism, handbooks on human rights and criminal justice responses to terrorism, for Kenya, and on foreign terrorist fighters, for South-Eastern Europe.

70. UNODC enjoyed partnerships and helped to strengthen coordination and coherence with entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, especially with the new Office of Counter-Terrorism. UNODC continued to chair two working groups of the Task Force: one on countering the financing of terrorism, with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, and the other on legal and criminal justice responses to terrorism, with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

4. Crime prevention and criminal justice

71. In the Sahel region, UNODC facilitated the development of risk evaluation tools for prison administration in Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger, following the recommendations from prison security audits conducted in 2016. The tools are aimed at better assessing the needs and security risk posed by violent extremist prisoners. In Egypt, Kyrgyzstan and Lebanon, UNODC delivered technical assistance on the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization in prisons. The Office also serviced a working group of the Gulf Cooperation Council on the application of the Nelson Mandela Rules, targeting over 50 officials from the region, held in April in Abu Dhabi. In July, UNODC presented the checklist of the Nelson Mandela Rules to prison officials from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Panama

and Paraguay, and promoted the establishment of effective internal prison inspection mechanisms in Argentina.

72. To promote gender-sensitive criminal justice systems, in September, UNODC organized a workshop in Panama City on the implementation of the Bangkok Rules in Central America, attended by prison officials from Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama, and civil society organizations from Guatemala. Together with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Population Fund and WHO, in June, UNODC brought together over 100 participants from the health, social, police and justice sectors of 12 countries in Asia and the Pacific at a regional meeting in Bangkok on coordinated multisectoral services to respond to gender-based violence. The Office also organized a training-of-trainers course on effective responses to violence against women for police officers, prosecutors and social workers in Namibia.

73. To promote community-based crime prevention, UNODC completed an evidence-informed life skills training curriculum for sport settings to address risk factors related to youth crime, which was rolled out in Brazil, South Africa and Kyrgyzstan, with training-of-trainers sessions provided to over 100 sport coaches. In cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Government of Canada, the Office organized an expert meeting in New York in May and June on urban crime, governance and sustainable development, which resulted in recommendations on crime prevention at the local level for the development of the United Nations Guidelines on safer cities.

74. With regard to juvenile justice, UNODC trained 145 justice and child protection professionals, including lawyers, on the treatment of children recruited and exploited by terrorist groups. The Office also provided legal advisory services to the Governments of Cabo Verde and Colombia and undertook an in-depth assessment of juvenile justice in Jamaica. In Colombia, UNODC strengthened the capacity of 133 justice and child protection professionals on restorative justice for children.

75. UNODC continued its technical assistance on maritime crime legal reforms by supporting prosecutions for piracy, capacity-building in maritime law enforcement and strengthening the criminal justice response to maritime crime in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans, the Horn of Africa and the Gulf of Guinea, by embedding legal and maritime law enforcement advisors and facilitating cooperation among coastal States.

76. The Office developed various technical assistance tools, including the UNODC-Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights *Resource Book on Use of Force and Firearms in Law Enforcement*; the *Resource Book for Trainers on Effective Prosecution Responses to Violence against Women and Girls*; the *Model Law on Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems with Commentaries*; and *Line Up Live Up: Trainer Manual on Life Skills Training Through Sport to Prevent Crime, Violence and Drug Use*.

C. Research, trend analysis and scientific and forensic support

1. Data collection, research and trend analysis

77. The *World Drug Report 2017* contains an overview of the situation on drug demand and supply and addresses trends in the markets of opiates, cocaine, cannabis and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances. It also contains an analysis of the nexus between the world drug problem and transnational organized crime, corruption, illicit financial flows and terrorism.

78. The Office supported drug use surveys in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan and Tajikistan and provided training on drug monitoring systems and drug research.

79. UNODC supported illicit crop cultivation surveys in Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Mexico, Myanmar and Peru. UNODC conducted research on factors contributing to illicit cultivation and undertook an assessment of alternative development programmes. The Office also finalized a study on the trafficking of Afghan opiates along the northern route.

80. UNODC carried out global data collection on trafficking in persons in the context of armed conflict. UNODC published, jointly with the Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, an estimate of the number of victims of trafficking in the Netherlands. The first UNODC global study on the smuggling of migrants is to be published in early 2018.

81. UNODC provided available data and analyses on the Sustainable Development Goal indicators under its responsibility and undertook capacity-building activities related to those indicators in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America. Methodological work in various areas related to the Sustainable Development Goals was undertaken by developing a manual on the measurement of corruption through surveys and a manual for the implementation of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes. UNODC also completed a thorough review of the annual crime trends survey.

2. Scientific and forensic support

82. UNODC continued to enhance the effectiveness of national laboratories through the setting of standards in the laboratory analysis of drugs. Efforts to that end included the publication of *Recommended Methods for the Identification and Analysis of Fentanyl and its Analogues in Biological Specimens*, in response to the current opioid crisis.

83. UNODC continued to support the implementation of the scheduling decisions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs through regular updates of the *Multilingual Dictionary of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances under International Control* and the publication entitled *Clandestine Manufacture of Substances under International Control*. The Office also contributed to key research and drug policy discussions and the development and implementation of regional and country programmes, including those for West Africa, Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, Central Asia and the Cocaine Route Programme of the European Union.

84. Through its international quality assurance programme, UNODC assisted 232 national laboratories in 75 countries, including by providing 903 samples of chemical reference standards to laboratories in 55 countries. The Office also provided support to law enforcement agencies on enhancing their capacity to detect and identify drugs and precursors, including through the provision of 1,136 field testing kits to 12 countries and through contributions to a number of regional training initiatives.

85. The global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme continued to monitor and share information on synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances, and to strengthen the capacity of States to respond to the risks and challenges posed by such substances. In 2017, activities covered countries in Oceania, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Central, East, South and South-East Asia.

IV. Strengthening the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

A. Strategic planning

86. UNODC strengthened its efforts to generate new and innovative approaches to implementing the 2030 Agenda, in line with its mandates, by conducting training workshops for UNODC field offices, in order to ensure alignment with country-led

efforts to achieve the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and to report against the global indicators of the Goals that are relevant to the Office's mandate. UNODC launched several new integrated programmes linked to the 2030 Agenda.

87. UNODC strengthened informal links with partner agencies through the United Nations Strategic Planning Network, with a view to replicating and adapting good practices on results-based management, programme development, planning, monitoring and reporting.

B. Evaluation

88. The Independent Evaluation Unit evaluates the portfolio of UNODC according to norms and standards of the United Nations Evaluation Group, with a focus on gender and human rights, and cooperates with oversight functions to ensure efficiencies. Although a professional peer review of the evaluation function, conducted in 2016, reflected impressive progress since 2010, recommendations showed that further investments were crucial to strengthening evaluation and accountability at UNODC.

89. Two strategic evaluations were managed and published on the UNODC website and two are currently ongoing. Evaluation recommendations were presented to the Executive Director, members of senior management and Member States, thereby contributing to a culture of accountability and learning. The Unit is further backstopping 26 project evaluations.

90. The Unit conducted a high-profile meta-analysis and engaged an external company for a quality control of all evaluations of 2017, also extracting best practices in how UNODC builds capacity in the field. Furthermore, the Unit finalized a second evaluation handbook and fully revised its evaluation tools. The Unit also engaged in supporting Member States in strengthening national evaluation capacity in line with General Assembly resolution 69/237 and the 2030 Agenda.

C. Finance and partnerships

91. UNODC continued supporting the meetings of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC by providing information on progress made by the Office in the implementation and evaluation of its global and regional programmes, geographical and gender representation in the composition of UNODC staff, gender mainstreaming in UNODC policies and programmes, and on financial and budgetary matters.

92. The Office continued to work toward the conclusion of new memorandums of understanding with key partners and to implement existing partnership arrangements, with a view to reducing overlaps and complementing efforts in relevant areas. Notable efforts included cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), INTERPOL, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency. A closer partnership with WHO on drug-related issues has been developed and UNODC took the lead in the United Nations Secretariat-wide follow-up to the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, including in the implementation of the relevant decisions taken by an Executive Committee meeting convened by the Secretary-General in April. UNODC also deepened its engagement on issues of strategic importance, such as cybercrime and urban safety governance, with the United Nations system as a whole.

93. In partnership with UN-Habitat, the Office coordinated a meeting of experts on urban safety and good governance to help implement the New Urban Agenda adopted at Habitat III. Together with the United Nations Development Programme, UNESCO and UNHCR, UNODC is a facilitator of the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies.

94. The financial situation of UNODC remains vulnerable. The decline in unearmarked funds persists, with the general-purpose income predicted to reach less than 1.2 per cent of total income in 2017. Low levels of unearmarked or soft-earmarked funding represent a key challenge to the effective implementation of the mandates and programmes of UNODC and put a strain on the management, coordination and normative functions.

95. The programme delivery of UNODC is expected to grow from $512.6 million in the biennium 2016–2017 to $672.4 million in the biennium 2018–2019, representing a 31.2 per cent increase. The growth in programme delivery started in 2017 under various programmes, including the expansion of alternative livelihood programmes in Colombia; implementation of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation; alternative development in Afghanistan; and counter-terrorism efforts in Pakistan.

96. In 2018, UNODC will continue the implementation of major initiatives to strengthen the accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of programme execution, including the Organization's enterprise resource planning system, Umoja; International Public Sector Accounting Standards; and the enterprise risk management initiative. For Umoja, UNODC is taking a lead role in the development of the Umoja Extension 2 (UE2) release, in an effort to ensure that its scope and design meet the programmatic needs of the Office. UNODC is also actively taking part in discussions on the management reform led by the Secretary-General.

97. UNODC continued a strategic cooperation and policy-based dialogue with several donors to increase funding to UNODC and to provide support for the core functions including the fourth strategic dialogue with Japan. Visits to donor capitals were undertaken to promote partnerships, followed by regular updates. Fundraising outreach to new emerging donors is ongoing in order to strengthen dialogue and partnership opportunities. UNODC will focus on the engagement of Member States in building support towards existing issues and recognizing emerging ones.

98. In India, UNODC signed its first cooperation agreement with the private sector, namely the Max India Foundation, which provides quality health care to the underprivileged in the State of Punjab. In Colombia, UNODC and Siemens collaborated to promote standards on integrity, trust-building and coordinated actions among the public and private sector entities to reinforce the implementation of the national law on transnational bribery.

99. The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, partnered with the crowdfunding platform Charidy to launch the first Annual Giving Day for Victims of Human Trafficking on 30 July 2017. Small contributions totalling more than $50,000 were collected from individuals through the platform.

V. Recommendations

100. The Commissions may wish to provide further guidance, in the context of their respective mandates and consider requesting Member States to implement the recommendations below.

Effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem

101. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs may wish to consider requesting Member States:

(a) To continue to implement the commitments made by the international community to address and counter the world drug problem, in a balanced manner, including the implementation of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly and the sharing of best practices in an inclusive, transparent

and comprehensive manner, with equal attention paid to the seven thematic areas and benefiting from the expertise of all relevant stakeholders;

(b) To support the work of UNODC to strengthen comprehensive and scientific evidence-based drug demand reduction, including in the areas of prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration, in accordance with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 60/8;

(c) To fast-track HIV/AIDS responses among people who use drugs and people in prisons as part of reaching target 3.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030) by: (i) including the interventions contained in the *WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users*[2] in national HIV and drug strategies and scaling up their implementation with the involvement of drug control and law enforcement agencies, ministries of justice, interior and health and civil society and community-based organizations; and (ii) integrating the interventions outlined in the policy brief developed by UNODC, WHO, UNAIDS, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Development Programme on HIV prevention, treatment and care in prisons and other closed settings[3] into national plans and programmes addressing criminal justice, drug use, AIDS and tuberculosis and allocating resources for their implementation and scaling-up;

(d) To continue to support national and international mechanisms that increase access to and ensure availability of controlled medicines within national control systems as well as to take measures to expand the provision of quality health-care services that include the safe and rational use of essential controlled medicines for patients under medical care, in line with the provisions of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, as well as targets 3.8 and 3.b of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(e) To continue to address the stark disparity of access to controlled drugs for medical purposes globally, while preventing their diversion and abuse, including by providing support to the work of UNODC in promoting a comprehensive and coordinated response;

(f) To support the efforts of UNODC to monitor the emergence of new psychoactive substances at the global level through its early warning advisory, and to identify the most harmful, prevalent and persistent new psychoactive substances in order to assist in the prioritization of substances for international control;

(g) To review strategies and approaches in assisting States to implement recommendations on alternative development of the outcome document, and to ensure that the design and implementation of field-based interventions adhere to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Countering transnational organized crime

102. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to consider requesting Member States:

(a) To strengthen international cooperation in preventing and combating organized crime by making full use of the Organized Crime Convention as a legal basis in that regard;

(b) To utilize the capacity-building assistance provided by UNODC, with a view to strengthening their criminal justice responses to forms of crime, such as cybercrime, including the criminal use of cryptocurrency, trafficking in falsified medical products, wildlife and forest crime and trafficking in cultural property;

[2] 2nd ed. (Geneva, WHO, 2012).

[3] "HIV prevention, treatment and care in prisons and other closed settings: a comprehensive package of interventions", Policy Brief (Vienna, UNODC, 2013).

(c) To update and verify their records in the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) knowledge management portal and the directory of competent national authorities;

(d) To support the interregional initiatives of UNODC, including the Airport Communication Project, the Container Control Programme and the global programme on strengthening of criminal investigation and criminal justice along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa (CRIMJUST);

(e) To ensure that their national strategies to combat organized crime include active countermeasures against money-laundering, such as timely inter-agency cooperation, information-sharing, money-laundering typologies and the identification and location of assets and property;

(f) To respond to the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and money-laundering, and, in some cases, terrorism, by using an integrated, multidisciplinary approach to shaping policies and interventions, such as through reliable data collection, research and, as appropriate, intelligence- and analysis-sharing;

(g) To develop coordinated border management strategies and strengthen the capacity of border control, law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies to prevent, monitor and counter trafficking in firearms, their parts and ammunition;

(h) To call on UNODC to continue its work to support stronger responses by United Nations entities, States and other actors to conflict-related trafficking in persons, in follow-up to Security Council resolutions 2331 (2016) and 2388 (2017);

(i) To continue fully utilizing the *Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit* and to implement the recommendations contained in its findings.

Countering corruption

103. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to consider requesting Member States:

(a) To support UNODC in the implementation of the mandates provided by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its seventh session;

(b) To continue to support the Implementation Review Mechanism of the Convention against Corruption and to contribute to the implementation of its second cycle, which was launched at the sixth session of the Conference of the States Parties;

(c) To continue to support the work of UNODC, both at headquarters and in the field, to assist States in preventing and combating corruption.

Terrorism prevention

104. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to consider encouraging Member States:

(a) To promote the ratification and implementation of the 19 international conventions and protocols related to terrorism and other legal instruments, strengthen national legislation and international judicial cooperation, and enhance their criminal justice capacity to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

(b) To encourage Member States to continue to support the implementation of the UNODC terrorism prevention programme, including through utilizing technical assistance provided by UNODC and providing sustainable support, in the light of the evolving terrorist threat.

Research, trend analysis and scientific and forensic support

105. The Commissions may wish to consider requesting Member States:

(a) To strengthen the capacity of national authorities to collect accurate, reliable and comparable data on crime and illicit drug production, trafficking and use, with a view to increasing their capacity to respond to data-collection tools such as the crime trends survey, the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, and the annual report questionnaire and individual drug seizure reports;

(b) To further support the work of UNODC to strengthen national data-collection capacity to monitor progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in the fields of drug use and its health consequences, alternative development, rule of law and access to justice, and combating organized crime, violence, trafficking in persons, wildlife trafficking, corruption and illicit financial flows;

(c) To support the evidence-led approaches to enhance safety and good governance at the city level in line with the New Urban Agenda;

(d) To further support UNODC in its work to strengthen the analytical work of laboratories by providing reference materials, including on new psychoactive substances, identifying best practices and developing relevant guidelines and research to ensure high quality standards in laboratory work and facilitating the exchange of laboratory information and data to enable a timely response to emerging issues.

Strengthening the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

106. The Commissions may wish to consider requesting Member States:

(a) To support the implementation of recommendations of oversight functions, including the 2016 professional peer review, to ensure a strengthened evaluation function, a culture of evaluation and accountability at UNODC;

(b) To engage in building national evaluation capacity and accountability within the mandated areas of UNODC, in line with General Assembly resolution 69/237 and the 2030 Agenda;

(c) To support the efforts of UNODC to build the capacity of staff at all levels to respond holistically to Member State requests to address specific hurdles to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

(d) To support the development of administrative systems, such as the Umoja Extension 2 (UE2) release, that are fit for purpose in delivering technical cooperation and normative support services in an effective and efficient manner;

(e) To provide UNODC with adequate, predictable and stable resources, including additional regular budget resources, to enable it to implement its mandated work in a sustainable manner;

(f) To provide greater general-purpose (unearmarked) and soft-earmarked funding to enable the Office to effectively respond to the increasing demand for technical assistance and to continue its technical cooperation in close coordination with partner countries and regional bodies.

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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda**
Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions: work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present note has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2017/236, in which the Council renewed the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime until the part of the sessions of the Commissions to be held in the first half of 2021, as well as Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 52/13, 54/10, 54/17, 56/11, 58/1 and 60/3 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 18/3, 20/1, 20/9, 22/2, 24/1 and 26/1. The present note covers the work of the working group between 19 October 2017 and 22 January 2018. Information on the work of the working group during the preceding period can be found in document E/CN.7/2017/3/Add.2-E/CN.15/2017/15/Add.2.

* E/CN.7/2018/1.
** E/CN.15/2018/1.

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I. Deliberations

1. From 19 October 2017 to 22 January 2018, the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) held three informal meetings and a formal meeting.

2. The working group continued to consider issues under the items of the agenda approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2017/236 and by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 52/13 and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in its resolution 18/3 and in accordance with the terms of reference annexed to those resolutions, as well as with provisions contained in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 54/10, 54/17, 56/11, 58/1 and 60/3 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 20/1, 20/9, 22/2, 24/1 and 26/1.

3. At the meeting held on 19 October, delegations were provided with an outline of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for UNODC, highlighting, among other things, a material growth in programme delivery reaching a total of $672.4 million; a greatly reduced level of general-purpose funds (less than 1 per cent of the total income of UNODC), which were the main vehicle for overcoming short-term programmatic shortfalls; a proposal that resources for research and justice functions, previously funded from general-purpose funds, be mobilized separately, while utilizing general-purpose fund reserves; and the completion of the transition to a fully implemented full-cost recovery model. Other information provided by representatives of UNODC included trends and evolution of special-purpose, general-purpose and programme support cost funds and challenges for the future. The timeline for the review and approval of the UNODC budget for the period 2018–2019 was also presented, as well as efficiencies achieved in relation to the regular budget for the period 2018–2019. Delegations expressed concern over the decline in general-purpose funds and the impact that could have on core functions of the Office. The crucial role of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch was noted, and speakers expressed concern at the impact that the lack of general-purpose funding could have on the work and staff of the Branch. The growth of special-purpose funds was seen as an indication of the value that Member States attached to UNODC as an implementing partner. In the view of some speakers, excessive full-cost-recovery rates could negatively affect the ability of UNODC to compete with other organizations.

4. At the meeting, a representative of UNODC also reported on efforts to assist Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly with regard to Goal 16, on justice, and target 3.5 (strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse). An update was given on the implementation of the UNODC regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, as a platform for strengthened engagement on drug and crime challenges in West and Central Asia. Delegations expressed concern at the declining donor support in the face of a deteriorating situation with respect to opium production in Afghanistan. Updates were also provided on the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime, which was seen as connecting the protection of wildlife with criminal justice, and on the joint global programme on access to controlled substances for medical purposes while preventing diversion and abuse, conducted in cooperation with the World Health Organization and the Union for International Cancer Control. A presentation was also made on the Global Programme on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in UNODC and the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV), which had the objective of putting in place a UNODC and UNOV institutional framework to achieve gender equality. Among the ongoing and planned activities under that Global Programme were the following: a baseline survey; the development of a Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan; awareness-raising and capacity-building within the Office; gender mainstreaming in the project management cycle; and enhancing gender parity among staff. The working group was also given

an update on the work of the Independent Evaluation Unit of UNODC, with an emphasis on the results of investing in gender-sensitive evaluations. An overview was provided of UNODC technical assistance in the field of criminal justice responses to terrorism.

5. At the meeting held on 23 November, delegations were updated on the financial situation of UNODC, covering aspects such as the regular budget decision-making process, projections for general-purpose contributions in the period 2016–2019; the general-purpose budget for the period 2018–2019; comparison of initial budgets for special-purpose funds with programme support cost funds; major items in the growth of special-purpose funding in 2017 and the implementation of special-purpose funds as of mid-November 2017; a break-down of the programme support cost budget by Division and by posts, in the period 2018–2019. The key goals of the Secretary-General's management reform were also presented. In replying to the questions and comments made, the Director of the Division for Management clarified the use of the different funding sources. He highlighted the sharp decline in general-purpose funds (unearmarked voluntary contributions) and noted that the projections for general-purpose fund income for the period 2018–2019 were lower than what was foreseen in the current budget. Most income had become earmarked funding over the years. It was further clarified that the internal budget review process included a needs assessment of the requirements of each Division and internal consultations on the principles of balanced budgets, utilization of funds for the intended purposes, maintenance of adequate levels of reserves and compliance with the Financial Rules and Regulations of the United Nations, including the Controller's memo that governs the use of programme support cost funds.

6. A representative of UNODC elaborated on the development of the strategic framework for the period 2020–2021, explaining that it was currently on hold until the Secretary-General's reform proposals, including on the length of the budget period (a possible reduction from two years to one year), and that the format of the programme plans would be formally considered by the Member States. If the reform proposals were approved by the General Assembly, the changes would come into effect for the annual budget and the strategic framework for the period 2020–2021 and require a new format which was to be used in the whole United Nations Secretariat. The UNODC representative also provided an update on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review for the period 2016–2020, noting that UNODC, as a member of the United Nations Development Group, was actively participating in this process. The four main areas of reform being pursued under the lead of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General included the development of a system-wide strategic document in line with the 2030 Agenda. Other presentations were made at the meeting, on UNODC support to Member States in mounting an effective response to address HIV among women in prisons and on the gender dimension in criminal justice responses to terrorism. An update on the work of the Independent Evaluation Unit was also provided.

7. At the meeting held on 4 December, the Director of the Division for Management of UNODC provided explanations on the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for UNODC (E/CN.7/2017/13-E/CN.15/2017/15). He also replied to queries by delegations on the consolidated budget, including on the following: the timing for its processing and approval by the Commissions; the use of the different funding sources; the proposed transfer for the research and justice functions of the Office from general-purpose funding to special-purpose funding; and the decline in general-purpose funding over the years. In replying to the questions and comments made, the Director of the Division for Management explained that, in view of the decline in general-purpose funding, the Office had been working on identifying the right funding sources for activities since the period 2012–2013, including the transfer of field office representative functions and deputy representative functions from general-purpose funding to special-purpose funding; moving indirect support functions, such as

co-financing and partnership functions, advocacy and central support for the Divisions' activities, to programme support cost funds. At the current stage, there were not many possibilities left, and the Executive Director had committed himself to ensuring the continuity of the work of UNODC in research and justice, if needed through redeployment of resources as appropriate. Programme support cost funds were earmarked for indirect support to projects.

8. An update on the work of the Independent Evaluation Unit was also provided at the meeting, including on the Unit's contribution to the review of progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and related capacity-building for national evaluation of progress. The Secretariat also reported on progress towards the achievement of gender parity among the staff in the Office at all levels under four key drivers: recruitment and staff retention, career development, organizational culture, and supporting architecture. Among other achievements, UNODC had met the targets for 2016 for the representation of women in non-senior posts (P-1 to P-4) and senior posts (P-5 to D-2) in the Professional category; supported career coaching, workshops and online courses to foster career advancement for women; and continued efforts to further develop an inclusive culture that promotes diversity and provides staff with a flexible and enabling workplace.

9. A formal meeting of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC was held on 22 January 2018. The meeting was addressed by the Executive Director, who referred to the Office's priorities for 2018. He also provided information on the revisions made to the consolidated budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for UNODC, which had been prepared on the basis of requests made by Member States at the reconvened sessions of the Commissions in December 2017. He noted that the Office was proposing to redeploy resources for the Research and Trend Analysis Branch, including general-purpose and programme support costs funds. At the same time, funds had been made available to the Division for Operations to preserve the integrity of the field office network. He also acknowledged the solid projections for special-purpose income, which testified to the continued confidence of donors in the work of the Office and had allowed programme growth in a number of countries and regions. In the face of this growth, UNODC had managed to maintain budget discipline and application of full-cost-recovery principles in the field. General-purpose income projections, however, had dropped to an all-time low level, and more general-purpose funds were needed to maintain strategic direction and oversight, manage potential financial shortfalls and implement improvements. Continued political and financial support was needed from Member States in order to find sustainable resource solutions for the Office. For its part, UNODC intended to further reinforce its accountability framework in line with United Nations system-wide reforms. Among other developments highlighted by the Executive Director was the promotion of equal representation of women at all staff levels, as well as equitable geographical representation. In line with the United Nations system-wide strategy on gender parity, UNODC had developed its own Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for the period 2018–2021, and an Action Plan to ensure the effective implementation of the Strategy was being elaborated. A number of delegations expressed appreciation for the Executive Director's participation in the meeting, which testified to the importance that the Office attached to issues of governance and finance. They also welcomed the revised proposed budget, including the proposed amendments to provide for the continuity of services in the research and justice sectors, as well as field operations.

10. The Director of the Division for Management presented a note on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which contained the adjustments requested by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 60/10 and by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in its resolution 26/5. The note was to be issued for consideration and action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-first session in March 2018 and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its

twenty-seventh session in May 2018.[1] Other presentations were made by representatives of the Secretariat, on human resources management at UNODC, on progress in the implementation of UNODC programmes in South-Eastern Europe and Africa, and on the work of the Independent Evaluation Unit. The Secretariat also provided an update on United Nations reform as it pertained to the strategic framework modalities. The meeting agreed, on the basis of previous practice, that the meetings of the working group were to be suspended until June 2018, after the sessions of the Commissions, in order to allow time for the preparation of a new programme of work.

II. Organizational and administrative matters

11. Under the guidance of the Co-Chairs, Ignacio Baylina Ruiz (Spain) and Moataz Khaled Aly Abdelhady (Egypt), the working group held three informal meetings, on 19 October, 23 November and 4 December 2017, and a formal meeting on 22 January 2018.

12. Informal consultations were held on 5 and 6 December on the draft resolutions for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, contained in annexes VI and VII, respectively, of the report of the Executive Director on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for UNODC (E/CN.7/2017/12–E/CN.15/2017/14).

13. The Secretariat continued to provide documents and information to the working group by electronic means and in hard copy, including through a web page accessible to the public (www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/FINGOV/FINGOV-index.html) and a secure web page for Member States (www.unodc.org/missions/en/wggf/index.html), set up and maintained by the Secretariat for the use of the working group.

III. Action by the Commissions

14. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its reconvened sixtieth session, and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its reconvened twenty-sixth session, elected Ignacio Baylina Ruiz (Spain) and Moataz Khaled Aly Abdelhady (Egypt) Co-Chairs of the working group, in accordance with the procedure set out in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 52/13 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 18/3.

[1] E/CN.7/2018/12-E/CN.15/2018/14.

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Integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

International cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and corruption

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to fight transnational organized crime, in all its forms and manifestations, including new and emerging forms such as cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property, and corruption. The report also provides information on international cooperation and technical assistance undertaken by the Office to combat transnational organized crime and corruption.

* E/CN.15/2018/1.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2017/237. It provides information on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) related to item 6 (a) and (b) of the provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2018/1). It contains information on the activities of UNODC to curb transnational organized crime, including new and emerging forms of crime, and to fight corruption. The report also contains information on the activities of UNODC to promote international cooperation in criminal matters, including through networking, and technical assistance undertaken by UNODC to upgrade the capacity of Member States in addressing related challenges. Prominence is given to action geared towards promoting the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

II. Transnational organized crime

A. Working groups of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention

2. Within the framework of its thematic programme, UNODC continued to assist States in implementing the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. In its resolution 8/2, the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention decided to continue the process of establishing the mechanism for the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto. Sessions of the open-ended intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of defining the specific procedures and rules for the functioning of the review mechanism were held in Vienna from 30 October to 1 November 2017 and from 21 to 23 March 2018, respectively.

3. During the reporting period, the Working Group on Firearms, the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons and the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants held their respective meetings for 2017. Each working group discussed the preparation of a questionnaire for the review of the implementation of each protocol under the prospective review mechanism, in addition to other substantive agenda items.

4. The Working Group on International Cooperation held its eighth meeting back-to-back with the tenth meeting of the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance in Vienna from 9 to 13 October 2017, with each sharing a joint agenda item on the preparation of the questionnaire for the review of implementation of the Convention.

B. Promoting adherence to the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto

5. In 2017, UNODC provided pre-ratification support to Japan and pre-accession support to Fiji. Japan accepted the Organized Crime Convention, as well as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Fiji acceded to the Convention and the Protocols thereto.

6. The actions taken by States during the reporting period to achieve adherence to the Convention and its supplementary Protocols may be summarized as follows: Fiji acceded to the Convention and Japan accepted it. Fiji and the State of Palestine acceded to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and Japan accepted it. Côte d'Ivoire and Fiji acceded to the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol and Japan accepted it. Finally, Fiji acceded to the Firearms Protocol.

7. As at 9 February 2018, 189 States had become parties to the Convention; 173 to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; 146 to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and 115 to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

C. Promoting the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, with a focus on fostering international cooperation

1. Organized Crime Convention

8. The Secretariat continued to develop the knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) and to disseminate information on the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention. As of February 2018, SHERLOC included more than 2,700 cases involving organized crime from 116 countries and more than 6,800 pieces of legislation from 197 countries.

9. From February 2017 to February 2018, SHERLOC was accessed by 186,990 users, indicating that the number of users is rising. The 10 States with the largest number of portal users were the United States of America, India, Peru, Mexico, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Guatemala, the Philippines, Argentina, Colombia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

10. Global access and multilingualism are important goals for SHERLOC and, to that end, SHERLOC has been translated for use in all of the official languages of the United Nations. SHERLOC is also adaptable to all devices, enabling users to access it through mobile technologies.

11. The Office has expanded SHERLOC by adding new databases and functionalities, including a database on strategies and a database on treaties. The database on strategies contains strategic instruments relating to the regional and domestic implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, while the database on treaties contains information on the ratification status of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto and other relevant legal instruments.

12. In order to assist Member States seeking to ratify, accede to or implement the Organized Crime Convention, the *Legislative Guides for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto* was updated pursuant to resolution 7/4 of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention and has been published electronically on SHERLOC in English. The updated version of the *Legislative Guides* has been translated into all official languages of the United Nations and those language versions will also be made available on SHERLOC.

13. The Office has also continued to manage and update the directory of competent national authorities under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the Organized Crime Convention on the SHERLOC platform. The directory will be expanded to include competent authorities for judicial cooperation in terrorism cases. Moreover, terrorism will be the fifteenth type of crime to be covered in the SHERLOC databases, which will include terrorism-related case law, legislation, bibliographic resources and national strategies against terrorism.

14. The Office continued to work on the collection of resources pertaining to drug control. It developed a new repository on drug control, which replaced the former "legal library" and is now administered under SHERLOC. The repository includes national legislation on drug control, as well as links to the directory of competent national authorities under the 1988 Convention and the Organized Crime Convention and to the directory of competent national authorities responsible for issuing

certificates and authorizations for the import and export of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and for regulating or enforcing national control over precursors and essential chemicals. The repository on drug control is linked to SHERLOC and constitutes a unique gateway to information related to drug control.

15. The Office also worked on the development of an additional component of SHERLOC, the external contributors interface, which is a new, simplified web-based tool for gathering comprehensive information on the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. The interface will provide focal points with access to password-protected accounts as a security measure. With such access, States parties will be able to easily and quickly input, update or verify national information on legislation and jurisprudence and provide analysis on key legal issues in their national legislation and case law. The Secretariat plans to launch the tool at the end of 2018.

16. During the reporting period, the Secretariat finalized its work on the redevelopment of the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool, a guidance tool designed to assist criminal justice practitioners in expeditiously drafting requests for mutual legal assistance. The tool was presented in the context of promotional and awareness-raising activities at a number of events, including the twenty-second Annual Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors (Beijing, 10–15 September 2017), the meeting of the Criminal and Legal Affairs Subgroup of the Group of Eight Lyon-Roma Anti-Crime and Terrorism Group (3–5 October 2017) and the meeting of the Asia-Pacific Law Enforcement Network of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (Republic of Korea, 15–17 November 2017). At the time of drafting the present report, UNODC was working towards making the tool available as an open resource on the UNODC website.

17. Through its Country Office in the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNODC supported and contributed substantively to a national meeting on international judicial cooperation: mutual legal assistance and extradition, held in Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 3 and 4 May 2017. The meeting was organized in close coordination with the International Affairs Department of the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran and hosted senior officers from judicial authorities and legal officials from Tehran, Tabriz and the East Azerbaijan Province. The discussions revolved around practical and legal aspects of extradition and mutual legal assistance from both a national and international perspective.

18. A regional workshop on the promotion of cooperation among the countries in West and Central Asia to better address the international transfer of sentenced persons, organized under subprogramme 2 of the UNODC regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, was held in Bishkek on 7 and 8 September 2017.

19. UNODC held an expert group meeting in Vienna on 5 and 6 October 2017 to support the implementation of Conference resolution 8/1. Twenty-one experts from central authorities from all regions shared experiences and good practices on the roles and functions of central authorities, inter-agency cooperation, case management, resources and electronic evidence.

20. During the reporting period, representatives of UNODC trained experts from 46 States on the Organized Crime Convention, documenting a 33 per cent increase in knowledge among trainees as a result. The Office also developed modules on combating organized crime for the Education for Justice (E4J) initiative. In that connection, UNODC organized two expert group meetings and initiated research on the nexus between organized crime and terrorism and the links between organized crime and cybercrime and organized crime and gender.

2. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

21. UNODC continued to assist States parties in implementing the Trafficking in Persons Protocol through normative, policy support and operational work. At the global level, under its project Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants, implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Children's Fund, UNODC successfully carried out more than 100 activities addressing trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants in 2017. The project also strengthened regional cooperation in criminal matters related to trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, for example, through the organization of a workshop with the Ibero-American network of prosecutors against trafficking in persons, held in Colombia from 19 to 21 September 2017.

22. Through its Global Programme against Trafficking in Persons, UNODC reached 735 practitioners, government officials and civil society representatives from 40 countries. In particular, in partnership with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, the Office conducted a regional workshop in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for national anti-trafficking coordinators of South-Eastern Europe with a focus on sexual exploitation and national referral mechanisms. UNODC also held judicial colloquiums in Algeria and Botswana.

23. The theme of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, observed on 30 July 2017, was "act to protect and assist trafficked persons". To mark the day, the Office organized a special screening of the film *Sold* for Permanent Missions in Vienna. The corresponding social media campaign, which included a message released worldwide on 30 July 2017 via the social media platform Thunderclap, generated a record reach of 73 million impressions worldwide. The Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants also organized advocacy events such as the exhibition entitled "Hear their voices. Act to protect", which was presented in Bishkek, Brussels and Vienna on the occasion of the European Union Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October 2017 and United Nations Day on 24 October 2017 in order to draw attention to the testimonies of victims.

24. UNODC published a new issue paper on the international legal definition of trafficking in persons: consolidation of research findings and reflection on issues raised, which was launched at the twenty-sixth session of the Commission.

25. Furthermore, UNODC provided substantive support to the informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing in support of the preparatory process towards the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, held on 23 June 2017, as well as to the high-level meeting itself, which resulted in a political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

26. UNODC prepared a draft of the report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in persons in armed conflict pursuant to Security Council resolution 2331 (2016) (S/2017/939). The report was before the Council at its 8111th meeting, held on 21 November 2017, at which the Council adopted resolution 2388 (2017).

27. UNODC continued to play a leading role and maintained its coordination functions within the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, resulting in the joint development of products to harmonize anti-trafficking responses, such as Issue Brief 02 of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, on trafficking in persons in humanitarian crises.

28. UNODC continued to manage the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which in 2017 supported 18 non-governmental partner organizations providing specialized assistance to around 3,000 victims of trafficking in persons in 18 countries, with grants totalling $403,447. In 2017, the Trust Fund raised a total of $1.66 million in

contributions, which are to be used for its third small grants programme, starting in 2018.

3. Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air

29. UNODC continued to assist States parties in implementing the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol through normative, policy support and operational work. It reached over 200 practitioners through its technical assistance activities under the Global Programme against the Smuggling of Migrants, including a regional workshop on preventing and combating the smuggling of migrants by strengthening capacity in examining security documents, held in South Africa.

30. The Office organized a Regional Expert Group Meeting on smuggling of migrants, held in Kenya from 13 to 15 December 2017, with the objective of drafting the first plan of action and road map for concerted action against the smuggling of migrants in East Africa.

31. The Office also organized the third Regional Expert Group Meeting on cross-border cooperation and financial investigations and prosecutions in South-Eastern Europe, with a focus on disruption of financial flows deriving from the smuggling of migrants in the region. The meeting was held in Croatia from 18 to 20 October 2017 and was attended by policymakers and practitioners from 14 countries.

32. A regional training workshop to promote international judicial cooperation against the smuggling of migrants by sea affecting the Mediterranean Sea was held in Malta from 9 to 11 May 2017. It was the fourth in a series of transregional workshops on the smuggling of migrants by sea, and gathered prosecutors, judges and central authorities from countries of the Middle East and North Africa and the European Union, as well as from the European Commission, the Mediterranean Operation Sophia of the European Union Naval Force and UNODC, to share good practices, learn how to make better use of judicial cooperation in migrant smuggling cases and learn about the tools available for that purpose.

33. A subregional workshop to promote international cooperation in cases of migrant smuggling was held in Tunis from 25 to 27 September 2017. It brought together experts, including prosecutors, police officers and officials of competent Ministries, from Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and the Sudan.

34. The provision of technical assistance also included a "gaps and needs assessment mission" on the smuggling of migrants in the Maldives, in which amendments to legislation relating to the smuggling of migrants were proposed.

35. During the reporting period, the Office continued to develop modules on trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants for the E4J initiative, including educational components for primary and secondary schools and universities. In that connection, UNODC organized a workshop in collaboration with the European University Institute entitled "When smuggling goes wrong: from a crime against State sovereignty to a crime against persons". The objective of the workshop was to strengthen partnerships between UNODC and academia, gain a better understanding of the status of research on the smuggling of migrants and develop recommendations on the topic. UNODC also initiated a research effort on the role of women in the smuggling of migrants.

36. On the margins of the twenty-sixth session of the Commission, the Office launched a new policy tool: an issue paper on the concept of "financial or other material benefit" in the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol. The issue paper examines legislation and case law in order to gain a comparative perspective on how the "financial or other material benefit" element of migrant smuggling as defined in the Protocol has been applied. UNODC further developed its case law database on the smuggling of migrants, under SHERLOC, which included 758 cases from 39 jurisdictions as of December 2017.

37. UNODC provided support, through the Global Migration Group, for the consultative process of the General Assembly on the development of a global compact on refugees and a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. In particular, the Office supported the fifth of six informal thematic sessions of the General Assembly on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration, which was devoted to the theme of smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims; the session was held in Vienna on 4 and 5 September 2017. Furthermore, the Office supported the second informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing on the development of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and moderated a panel discussion on the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, held in Geneva on 11 October 2017. Representatives of UNODC also took part in a stocktaking meeting held in Mexico in December 2017, which marked the end of the preparatory phase of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

4. Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition

38. UNODC continued to promote the ratification and implementation of the Firearms Protocol. Through its Global Programme on Firearms, UNODC also continued its efforts to strengthen Member States' criminal justice responses and to promote international cooperation and exchange of information in relation to trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.

39. UNODC joined the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization in organizing a five-day simultaneous cross-border police operation named TRIGGER III in Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger and Nigeria, leading to the seizure of 130 firearms, including 49 Kalashnikov-type assault rifles, and several rounds of ammunition, as well as the initiation of 50 international tracing requests. Similarly, UNODC also participated in and contributed to the Europol Joint Action Days 2017. Sixty-eight European Union and non-European Union countries participated in the operations, which resulted in the seizure of 136 firearms, 7,095 rounds of ammunition and a wide range of other illicit goods and contraband.

40. To increase international cooperation and information exchange, UNODC continued to promote regular exchanges among firearms control and criminal justice practitioners through a community of practitioners. In that regard, UNODC organized several regional meetings, bringing together more than 60 practitioners from 11 countries in Africa (Algeria, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco and the Niger) and the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) to share and discuss experiences, good practices and lessons learned relating to the investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking cases. UNODC also initiated an effort to compile investigated and prosecuted firearms trafficking cases, which will be published in a digest of firearms trafficking cases that places particular focus on international cooperation.

41. UNODC continued to roll out its comprehensive training curriculum on investigation and prosecution of trafficking in firearms and other firearms-related crimes and trained around 60 officials from Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali in the course of the reporting period.

D. Networking to combat transnational organized crime

1. Law enforcement networking

42. Under the UNODC Global Programme on Building Effective Networks against Transnational Organized Crime (BENATOC) within the framework of the "networking the networks" initiative, UNODC continued to build stronger operational cooperation links between existing international and regional law enforcement

cooperation centres and organizations, as well as with the networks of financial intelligence units. UNODC also supported countries in a number of regions to strengthen and/or establish regional cooperation centres to promote crime-related intelligence-sharing and coordination of complex multilateral operations targeting all forms of organized crime and illicit financial flows.

43. The Office continued to engage with countries of the South Asia region to advance their initiative to establish a South Asian regional intelligence and coordination centre on transnational organized crime. Within the framework of the Law Enforcement TrainNet initiative of BENATOC, UNODC continued to facilitate networking between law enforcement training and educational institutions for exchange of curricula, training materials, tools, training methodologies, best practices and trainers.

44. In August 2017, the Government of Mexico, in coordination with the Police Community of the Americas (Ameripol), hosted the third meeting under the Law Enforcement TrainNet initiative, which focused on training initiatives related to the investigation of money-laundering by means of cryptocurrencies, countering illicit arms flows and other topics.

45. Following the official start of the new programme entitled "CRIMJUST: strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa (2016–2020)", the Office implemented, with the financial support of the European Union, a total of 62 activities aimed at improving the technical capacity of criminal justice actors to fight organized crime along the cocaine route, benefiting more than 1,600 officials.

46. Implemented by UNODC in partnership with INTERPOL and Transparency International, CRIMJUST provided technical assistance to 12 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cabo Verde, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Panama and Peru). The main domains of assistance included, inter alia, capacity-building; strengthening the capacities of criminal justice institutions (law enforcement and the judiciary) to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate drug-trafficking and related organized crime cases; fostering regional and interregional cooperation between criminal justice institutions (law enforcement and the judiciary); and enhancing the institutional integrity and accountability of criminal justice institutions.

47. CRIMJUST also enabled the launching in 2017 of an interregional operation led by intelligence officials involving 13 countries that culminated in the seizure of more than 55 tons of drugs, the dismantling of 20 clandestine laboratories and more than 350 arrests.

2. Judicial networking

48. The UNODC Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime continued to foster international and regional judicial cooperation in criminal matters, in particular by supporting regional judicial cooperation networks. In 2017, the Programme continued to support the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime (WACAP), the Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in Response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus and the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network.

49. In 2017, UNODC continued to support the WACAP train-the-trainer programme on international cooperation in criminal matters, which was aimed at facilitating knowledge-transfer among peers; the train-the-trainer sessions were delivered to 333 prosecutors, judges, law enforcement officials and INTERPOL officers from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo.

50. WACAP cooperated with other programmes and networks to promote international cooperation in criminal matters and enhance the capacity of criminal justice practitioners to investigate and prosecute different forms of transnational organized crime. The CRIMJUST project and WACAP jointly organized a training session for anti-drug agencies of Nigeria and Ghana to share good practices on the prosecution of drug trafficking cases and enhance cross-border cooperation, which was held from 26 to 28 September 2017.

51. WACAP and the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa held a joint meeting in Senegal from 24 to 26 October 2017. The participants included more than 40 officials from all countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as well as Mauritania, Sao Tome and Principe, the ECOWAS Court of Justice and the ECOWAS Commission. They discussed the challenges of extradition within the ECOWAS region and obstacles encountered in the seizing, freezing, confiscation and management of criminal proceeds.

52. A regional cooperation workshop organized by the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants and WACAP on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants was held in Vienna on 14 and 15 December 2017 and was attended by experts and WACAP contact points from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, the Gambia, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

53. An interregional workshop on the use of electronic evidence in criminal proceedings was held in Tashkent in 2017. The workshop was attended by 43 judges and lecturers from judicial training centres in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

54. The Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network, modelled on WACAP and other such networks, was launched in Khartoum on 1 and 2 November 2017 by the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, together with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and with the support of UNODC. It will be led by ICGLR and UNODC, with political support from the Office of the Special Envoy, and will cover 12 States (Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia).

55. An informal meeting of regional judicial cooperation networks was held in Vienna on 4 October 2017. The Commonwealth Network of Contact Persons, the European Judicial Network, the Ibero-American Network for International Legal Cooperation, WACAP, the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network and the Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in Response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus were represented. Participants highlighted the benefits of greater collaboration, information-sharing and joint participation in each other's activities. It was agreed to establish an informal coordination mechanism to ensure that the networks would meet at least once a year.

E. Activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the field of trafficking in cultural property

56. In cooperation with various partners, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), INTERPOL and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, UNODC continued to provide technical assistance to Member States in order to strengthen their criminal justice responses to trafficking in cultural property, including by disseminating the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences and its practical assistance tool.

57. Since May 2017, UNODC has been involved in capacity-building activities in support of officials from Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Montenegro, Pakistan, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

58. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/186, UNODC continued to receive from and disseminate to Member States information on the designation of contact points to facilitate international cooperation within the application of the Organized Crime Convention, for the purpose of preventing and combating trafficking in cultural property.

59. UNODC continued to work closely with its partners, including UNESCO and INTERPOL, on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2199 (2015), on safeguarding Iraqi and Syrian cultural heritage, and on Security Council resolution 2347 (2017), on destruction of and trafficking in cultural property by terrorist groups and in situations of armed conflict.

F. Activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the field of cybercrime

60. The UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime continued to assist in developing the capacity of Member States to prevent, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate all types of cybercrime in Central America, East Africa, Central Asia, the Southern Caucasus and South-East Asia. The Programme supported Member States by providing high-level briefings and training to more than 90 parliamentarians on cybercrime investigations, in particular cases involving online child sexual exploitation and abuse, digital forensics, cryptocurrency investigation and equipment for front-line officers.

61. An expert group meeting jointly organized by UNODC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in cooperation with the International Association of Prosecutors was held in Vienna on 12 and 13 February 2018. The aim of the meeting was to establish the basis for the development of a practical guide for central authorities, prosecutors and investigators to facilitate the obtaining of electronic evidence from foreign jurisdictions in investigations related to counter-terrorism and cross-border organized crime. The meeting offered participants the opportunity to share domestic laws and guides, as well as examples of actual cases in which electronic evidence was obtained from communication service providers located in foreign jurisdictions.

62. The third meeting of the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime was held in Vienna from 10 to 13 April 2017; its fourth meeting is to be held from 3 to 5 April 2018. In accordance with Commission resolution 26/4, as well as the Expert Group's 2018–2021 workplan as approved by its extended Bureau, the meeting provided a platform to discuss the first two main topics of the workplan, legislation and frameworks, and criminalization.

III. Corruption

A. Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

63. The seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption was held in Vienna from 6 to 10 November 2017. The Conference was attended by almost 2,000 participants representing 160 Member States and many international and non-governmental organizations. During the conference, 32 special events were held addressing various anti-corruption issues. Action taken by the Conference included the adoption of the following resolutions: (a) resolution 7/1, on strengthening mutual legal assistance for international

cooperation and asset recovery; (b) resolution 7/2, on preventing and combating corruption in all its forms more effectively, including, among others, when it involves vast quantities of assets, based on a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption; (c) resolution 7/3, on promoting technical assistance to support the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption; (d) resolution 7/4, on enhancing synergies between relevant multilateral organizations responsible for review mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption; (e) resolution 7/5, on promoting preventive measures against corruption; (f) resolution 7/6, on follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption; (g) resolution 7/7, on strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States; and (h) resolution 7/8, on corruption in sport. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted decision 7/1, entitled "Work of the subsidiary bodies established by the Conference" (see CAC/COSP/2017/14).

1. Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

64. At its third session, held in Doha in 2009, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption adopted resolution 3/1, entitled "Review mechanism", establishing the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Implementation Review Group, which oversees the work of the Mechanism, held its eighth session from 19 to 23 June 2017 and its resumed eighth session on 7 and 8 November 2017 in Vienna. The Group considered, inter alia, the implementation of the Convention, the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism, technical assistance, and financial and budgetary matters.

65. Furthermore, in accordance with Conference resolution 4/6, entitled "Non-governmental organizations and the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption", the Secretariat conducted a briefing for non-governmental organizations on the margins of the eighth session of the Implementation Review Group. The briefing was chaired by the Vice-President of the Conference.

66. UNODC provided technical and substantive services to the Implementation Review Mechanism and the Implementation Review Group in 2017, the second year of the second cycle of the Review Mechanism. Those services included providing training and assistance to governmental experts from States parties under review and reviewing States, supporting the country reviews and producing thematic reports on the implementation trends and related technical assistance needs identified during the review process. In that connection, the Secretariat published the second edition of a study entitled *State of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: criminalization, law enforcement and international cooperation*, which contains an in-depth analysis of the thematic findings from the country reviews that had been completed at the time of drafting of the study. The Secretariat also prepared a note entitled "Set of non-binding recommendations and conclusions based on lessons learned regarding the implementation of chapters III and IV of the United Nations Convention against Corruption" (CAC/COSP/2017/5). The note provides an overview of the recommendations made in the country reviews.

67. At the time of drafting of the present report, 162 executive summaries of the country reports under the first cycle and 4 under the second cycle of the Mechanism had been completed and published. UNODC also provided technical assistance in response to the observations emanating from the reviews, including through the drafting of action plans, anti-corruption strategies and legislation, capacity-building and other ad hoc activities.

68. Since 2010, a total of $14,086,600 in voluntary contributions in support of Review Mechanism activities have been received from Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Morocco, the

Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Panama, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In-kind contributions have also been provided by Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, China, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Gabon, Grenada, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Vanuatu.[1]

2. Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption

69. At its eighth meeting, held in Vienna from 21 to 23 August 2017, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption addressed the implementation of Conference resolution 6/6, entitled "Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption". The Working Group also further discussed the thematic topics for inclusion in the provisional agenda of its next session, on good practices and initiatives in the prevention of corruption, agreed upon at its seventh meeting, held in Vienna from 22 to 24 August 2016 (see CAC/COSP/WG.4/2016/5), which included education in schools and universities on anti-corruption efforts (art. 13, para. 1 (c), of the Convention against Corruption) and integrity in criminal justice institutions (arts. 7, 8 and 11 of the Convention against Corruption).

70. At its seventh session, the Conference adopted resolution 7/6, entitled "Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption", in which it decided, inter alia, that the Working Group should continue its work and hold at least two meetings prior to the eighth session of the Conference. The Conference also adopted resolution 7/5, entitled "Promoting preventive measures against corruption", in which it decided that the next meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption should include the topics of (a) the use and effectiveness of asset declarations systems and (b) conflicts of interest.

3. Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery

71. At its eleventh meeting, held in Vienna on 24 and 25 August 2017, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery discussed, inter alia, the proactive and timely sharing of information, in accordance with article 56 of the Convention. It also discussed good practices for identifying victims of corruption and the parameters for compensating them, in accordance with Conference resolution 6/2. The Working Group meeting also served as a forum for discussions on capacity-building and technical assistance in asset recovery. In that regard, the Group welcomed a briefing provided by representatives of UNODC on technical assistance and capacity-building, including assistance provided by the joint World Bank/UNODC Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative.

72. At the seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties, UNODC launched a publication entitled "Effective management and disposal of seized and confiscated assets" which was a continuation of the Office's work on the management and disposal of seized and confiscated assets, and on identifying good practices in the management and disposal of recovered and returned stolen assets in support of sustainable development. At the same session, the Conference adopted resolution 7/1, entitled "Strengthening mutual legal assistance for international cooperation and asset recovery", in which it decided that the Working Group on Asset Recovery should continue its work by, inter alia, (a) gathering information on and best practices related to the identification and compensation of victims; (b) conducting analyses of third-party challenges; (c) collecting data on best practices in the timely sharing of information between States; and (d) conducting an analysis of how communication

[1] Information as at 18 January 2018.

and coordination between various asset recovery practitioner networks could be improved.

4. Experts to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption

73. The sixth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention against Corruption was held in Vienna on 6 and 7 November 2017. At the meeting, the experts took stock of country reviews on the implementation of chapter IV of the Convention against Corruption, including the findings on challenges, successes and good practices, as well as the lessons learned and technical assistance needs. The experts invited States parties to further assist one another in the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases by effectively using the Convention against Corruption as a legal basis for international cooperation. The experts also discussed international cooperation in civil and administrative proceedings for the detection of offences under the Convention, electronic tools and systems, and an update by UNODC of tools and services to promote international cooperation.

B. Promoting ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

1. Tools and knowledge-building

74. UNODC continued to develop and disseminate guides, handbooks and other tools. During the seventh session of the Conference, UNODC launched two publications: the *Handbook on Anti-Corruption Measures in Prisons* and an updated edition of the study *State of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: Criminalization, Law Enforcement and International Cooperation*. UNODC, through the StAR Initiative, also launched the "Guidelines for efficient recovery of stolen assets",[2] in cooperation with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland.

75. In partnership with the International Olympic Committee, UNODC launched a publication entitled *UNODC IOC Study on Criminal Law Provisions for the Prosecution of Competition Manipulation* to support States in strengthening their legislative frameworks in the area of integrity in sports.

76. The interactive e-learning tool for the private sector entitled "The fight against corruption" is now available in 23 languages, and 247,500 users have taken the course to date.

77. The Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK) portal, received a total of 54,488 page views in 2017 and at the time of drafting of the present report contained 56,068 legal provisions.

78. UNODC also continued its efforts to provide regional and country-specific resources. In 2017, the joint UNODC-UNDP Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project published the *Pacific Youth Anti-Corruption Advocate's Toolkit* in collaboration with the Pacific Youth Council. UNODC also worked on the development of a handbook on foreign bribery and international cooperation in South-East Asia. In Colombia, UNODC developed an online database with case studies on how businesses address the challenge of corruption.

2. Provision of technical assistance for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

79. UNODC carried out a broad set of tailored technical assistance activities at the global, regional and national levels. For instance, UNODC field-based anti-corruption

[2] See https://guidelines.assetrecovery.org/guidelines.

advisers played an important role in providing rapidly deployable professional expertise to deliver on-site guidance.

80. UNODC deploys advisers with regional responsibilities for Central America and the Caribbean, the Pacific, South-East Asia, South Asia, and West and Central Africa. A senior global adviser is based in Vienna and advisers with a national focus are based in El Salvador, Guyana and Qatar. Additionally, UNODC field offices implemented projects on the ground in 12 States and Kosovo.[3]

81. UNODC continues to receive requests from States seeking to improve their legislation to prevent and fight corruption, often based on the recommendations made on the basis of the country reviews. During the reporting period, UNODC assisted nine States in the drafting or amending of their anti-corruption legislation.

Investigation and prosecution of corruption

82. UNODC worked with States to build capacity in the criminal justice sector, including by providing training programmes covering topics such as abuse of power, financial investigations, mutual legal assistance and special investigative techniques to investigators, prosecutors and law enforcement officials from 23 States.

83. In addition, UNODC provided legislative assistance to four States in the drafting of whistle-blower protection laws and organized training workshops on whistle-blower and witness protection in five States. Furthermore, UNODC supported the Asian Football Confederation in the development of its new whistle-blower policy.

84. UNODC supported efforts to combat corruption and money-laundering, including through training workshops held in 12 States on investigations and prosecutions and legislative drafting assistance. In the Pacific region, the Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project and the Global Programme against Money-Laundering jointly delivered a regional training programme on money-laundering attended by participants from five States.

85. UNODC worked with law enforcement officials in six States to strengthen integrity, including by assisting in the drafting of standard operating procedures and in developing a corruption risk mapping methodology and institutional integrity strategies. Furthermore, as part of the CRIMJUST programme, UNODC held an initial workshop in January 2017 focusing on institutional integrity and accountability.

Judicial integrity

86. As part of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, UNODC worked towards the establishment of a global judicial integrity network, which is to be launched in April 2018 at the United Nations headquarters in Vienna. Since its inception, more than 4,000 judges and other justice sector stakeholders from a total of 155 countries have been reached through the Global Programme, with more than 340 judges from 117 countries benefiting from a multitude of capacity-building events.

87. UNODC held seven regional preparatory meetings for the establishment of the global judicial integrity network, translated a number of existing resources on judicial integrity into additional languages and began developing a judicial ethics training package, including an e-learning course and a trainer's manual.

88. In addition, UNODC provided technical assistance on judicial integrity to the judiciaries of nine States, including in reviewing and amending codes of ethics, assessing judicial integrity mechanisms and delivering training and technical tools.

[3] All references to Kosovo in the present document should be understood to be in compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Prevention of corruption

89. Prevention of corruption continues to be a crucial element of the Office's work. UNODC assisted nine States in developing and implementing national anti-corruption strategies.

90. UNODC also supported a number of efforts to increase transparency and accountability in the public sector. For instance, UNODC assisted four States in drafting access-to-information laws and worked with Vanuatu on raising awareness of its access-to-information bill. In Cambodia, UNODC delivered training to various national authorities on managing conflicts of interest and asset declarations for public officials.

91. In South-East Asia, UNODC conducted a series of regional and national workshops on risk assessment and mitigation of corruption in public procurement. UNODC also trained public officials in Panama on the topic of public procurement.

92. UNODC worked to mainstream corruption prevention into its overall work. It held training sessions at two regional events on the links between corruption and drug trafficking, and UNODC representatives made presentations at regional and global events in five States as well as with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on the links between the financing of terrorism and corruption. In addition, training programmes addressing the links between corruption and organized crime were delivered in three States.

93. In the area of integrity in sport, UNODC supported the anti-match-fixing project of Italy. UNODC, the International Olympic Committee, the Council of Europe, OECD and the United Kingdom supported the creation of an initiative named the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport. UNODC also provided training workshops on preventing corruption in sport in Viet Nam.

94. UNODC continued to mainstream anti-corruption efforts into work of the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime. It also continued its ongoing work with wildlife management authorities in three States to carry out corruption risk assessments and develop and implement corruption risk mitigation strategies.

95. UNODC also made strides in the fight against corruption in the private sector. For instance, with the support of the Siemens Integrity Initiative, the Office implemented a project in Colombia focused on public-private partnerships and strengthening the legislative framework related to the fight against corruption in the private sector. At the regional level, the Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project developed a code of conduct and toolkit for the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization, and UNODC delivered the first of a series of workshops in South-Eastern Europe on combating corruption in the private sector through collective action with civil society organizations.

Youth, education and civil society

96. UNODC continued to implement two major education initiatives: the Anti-Corruption Academic (ACAD) Initiative and the E4J initiative. ACAD developed a model university course on the Convention against Corruption, which has been made available online in Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish; a Russian-language version is under development. In addition, ACAD continued to foster a network of academics involved in anti-corruption education, including by holding a regional meeting for academics from the Asia-Pacific region.

97. In partnership with the E4J initiative, UNODC worked to build a culture of lawfulness among children and youth through the provision of age-appropriate educational materials on topics related to criminal justice and crime prevention, including anti-corruption. For instance, the E4J initiative developed a guide for organizers of model United Nations events in relation to topics such as corruption and non-electronic educational games, including on the subject of anti-corruption, for

schoolchildren at the secondary level, and university-level modules to support academics in teaching and researching anti-corruption-related topics. The E4J initiative also held conferences, workshops and seminars on education-related topics in seven States.

98. In the Pacific region, UNODC worked to raise awareness of issues surrounding corruption among young people and to encourage them to take active leadership roles in the fight against corruption. UNODC held workshops in Tonga and the Pacific region to promote and build the capacity of young women to participate in anti-corruption efforts.

99. UNODC also worked to promote the role of civil society in combating corruption, including by organizing a workshop for investigative journalists from West Africa aimed at building the capacity of journalists to investigate corruption. Globally, UNODC continued to expand its outreach efforts to civil society partners, including by holding training workshops on the Implementation Review Mechanism.

International cooperation and asset recovery

100. UNODC continued to maintain a list of designated central authorities responsible for requests for mutual legal assistance in accordance with article 46, paragraph 13, of the Convention. At the time of drafting of the present report, the list contained information on authorities designated by 129 States.

101. Capacity-building workshops on international cooperation were held regionally in Central America and the Caribbean, South-East Asia and East Africa. In addition, UNODC worked to redevelop the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool to make it more user-friendly, expand its functionality and integrate additional features.

102. UNODC provided assistance to national institutions through the StAR Initiative to strengthen their capacity to trace, seize, freeze, confiscate and return assets involved in cases of corruption. More than 20 countries, as well as several asset recovery forums and regional networks, received assistance through the StAR Initiative. In addition, the StAR Initiative worked with a number of jurisdictions through regional and/or international organizations in areas such as capacity-building and technical assistance.

103. Additionally, the StAR Initiative is working on a new edition of the publication entitled *The Puppet Masters: How the Corrupt Use Legal Structures to Hide Stolen Assets and What to Do About It* in order to bring it up to date with new cases and developments in the area of beneficial ownership.

3. Cooperation with other entities

104. UNODC works closely with other assistance providers, international organizations and entities. During the reporting period, the Office worked with OECD, the Group of 20, the Group of Seven, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the World Bank, the European Union, the Council of Europe and numerous other organizations and entities.

105. UNODC continued to coordinate its efforts within the United Nations system, including by working closely on projects with UNDP, the United Nations Global Compact and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Joint projects such as the StAR Initiative, the Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project and CRIMJUST provided significant technical assistance and new tools and resources to States parties and stakeholders.

4. Meetings and special events

106. UNODC organized a number of major meetings and special events in order to raise awareness and coordinate efforts in the fight against corruption, some of which are highlighted in the present report. In follow-up to the United Kingdom Anti-Corruption Summit in May 2016, UNODC organized two major regional

workshops to fast-track the implementation of the Convention against Corruption, in South-East Asia and East Africa, respectively. Both workshops brought together government and civil society representatives to identify priority areas and discuss recommendations on the way forward. UNODC is planning to expand such regional efforts to other regions and to follow up with concrete activities at the regional and national levels.

107. UNODC co-hosted the Conference on Promoting International Cooperation in Combating Illicit Financial Flows and Enhancing Asset Recovery to Foster Sustainable Development, held in Abuja from 5 to 7 June 2017. The conference brought together representatives of government, civil society, the private sector and international organizations and highlighted the importance of understanding illicit flows in commercial transactions, asset recovery and international cooperation.

108. The StAR Initiative, together with INTERPOL, serviced the seventh conference of the Global Focal Point Network on Asset Recovery, which was attended by delegates from 45 countries and five regional networks. As a follow-up to the United Kingdom Anti-Corruption Summit, the StAR Initiative also supported the first Global Forum on Asset Recovery, which gathered more than 250 participants from 26 States, including representatives of international organizations, civil society and the media.

109. In addition, UNODC participated in a number of conferences and events organized by States and other partners, including the Business 20, the European Union, INTERPOL, OECD, Transparency International, the World Economic Forum and numerous others.

IV. Recommendations

110. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to urge Member States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols and the Convention against Corruption and to take every step necessary to ensure their effective implementation, including by:

(a) Supporting the ongoing process of establishing the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto; and

(b) Actively participating in the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention against Corruption and ensuring predictable and reliable funding for its functioning.

111. Furthermore, the Commission may wish to urge States to provide sufficient resources for the convening of working groups and workshops for the implementation of those conventions and in fulfilment of mandates relating to international cooperation and the provision of technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to combat transnational organized crime and corruption.